

IN THE CLAIMS:

Cancel claim 7 without prejudice or disclaimer

Please amend the claims as shown below:

Claims 1-5 (canceled)

Claim 6 (currently amended): A laser intensity adjusting method of adjusting a maximum intensity of a laser exposure mechanism for irradiating laser light to a surface of a photoreceptor to which a uniform potential is being given by a corona discharger, said method comprising:

a first potential detecting step including the steps of (i) obtaining a first plurality of laser intensity values that increase from an initial value to a predetermined value according to a first interval to provide a first range of intensity values, (ii) successively exposing a surface portion of the photoreceptor surface with laser light having intensities corresponding to said first plurality of intensity values to provide a plurality of exposed patch portions on the photoreceptor surface, and (iii) detecting the potential of each of said plurality of exposed patch portions;

a second potential detecting step including the steps of (i) obtaining a second plurality of laser intensity values that increase from an initial value to a predetermined value according to a second interval to provide a second range of intensity values, said second interval being smaller than said first interval and said second range being smaller than said first range, (ii) successively exposing a surface portion of said photoreceptor surface with laser light having intensities corresponding to said second plurality of

intensity values to provide a plurality of patch portions on the photoreceptor surface; and
(iii) detecting the potential of each of said plurality of exposed patch portions; and

a step of setting, as a maximum intensity of the laser exposure mechanism, a laser intensity with which there has been detected, at said first or said second potential detecting step, a potential equal to or substantially equal to a predetermined set potential,

wherein said laser intensities corresponding to said second plurality of intensity values are selected to be close to a laser intensity value corresponding to a potential detected during said first potential detecting step as closest to said predetermined set potential, and

said second potential detecting step is repeated until there is obtained a potential equal to or substantially equal to said predetermined set potential.

Claim 7 (canceled)

Claim 8 (previously presented): A laser intensity adjusting method according to claim 6, wherein

said laser intensity values obtained at first potential detecting step have values selected from a plurality of laser intensities obtained by dividing said predetermined laser intensity value of said first potential detecting step by a first predetermined number.

Claim 9 (previously presented): A laser intensity adjusting method according to claim 6, wherein

said laser intensity values obtained at said second potential detecting step have values selected from a plurality of laser intensities obtained by dividing said

predetermined laser intensity value of said second potential detecting step by a second predetermined number.

Claim 10 (previously presented): A laser intensity adjusting method according to claim 8, wherein

said predetermined laser intensity value is set to a value which is greater than a suitable maximum intensity.

Claim 11 (previously presented): A laser intensity adjusting method according to claim 9, wherein

said predetermined laser intensity value is set to a value which is greater than a suitable maximum intensity.

Claim 12 (previously presented): A laser intensity adjusting method according to claim 6, wherein said exposed patch portions are spaced apart from each other on the photoreceptor surface.

Claim 13 (previously presented): A laser intensity adjusting method according to claim 12, wherein said exposed patch portions are generally rectangular areas on the photoreceptor.